



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 32, No. 4

Fourth Quarter, 1996

Whole No. 121

President's Report

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By the time this is printed all aspects of our 25th consecutive annual Mail Sale should be concluded. This one was a little harder to put together and noticeably smaller than those of recent years, but the sense of responsibility and the hard work of Richard Bates and Brad Wilde pulled it through successfully. I thank them again for all their good work on behalf of the Study Group.

This year was an experiment to see if the sale could be separated into two parts and managed from two different locations. In the next months your Board will be considering the experience of this first attempt to spread the activities of the sale. I hope that some members will take a moment to call or write me or other members of the Board so that we can have the benefit of wide feedback.

Next year's sale will be run by Dick Salz and I will be assisting him and learning the processes in detail. Dick and I live less than an hour's drive from each other, so the sale will be generally organized as it has been in the past; i.e., coordinated and executed by Dick; my role will be to lot and describe the non-stamp lots

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Meeting Notices

Regional meetings of the CZSG are scheduled:

ARIPEX 97, Tucson, Arizona, Saturday afternoon, 2 pm, January 25, 1997.

SANDICAL 97, San Diego, California, Saturday, February 1, 1997.

ROMPEX 97, Denver, Colorado, Saturday, May 17, 1997

PACIFIC 97, San Francisco, California, Saturday 2:00-3:30pm, May 31, 1997.

Please check show programs for details. All are welcome at the meetings.

FDR and Canal Zone Philately

by Richard Spielberg

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States, was remarkably involved in Canal Zone philately. FDR's involvement was both as the President and as a collector.

Naval covers from the 1934 *presidential cruise* on the cruiser USS *Houston* exist with "BALBOA/CANAL ZONE", July 12, Fig. 1. We note a July 19 cover indicating the USS *Macon* dropping mail for the President on the *Houston*, 1200 miles at sea, en route to Hawaii for his visit there the following week.

FDR's next visit to the Isthmus was in 1935, also on the USS *Houston*. The following covers are known:

Oct. 3, "CERROS/ISLANDS". Circular magenta "PRESIDENTIAL CRUISE 1935" and Roessler cachet (paste-on flag in color), Fig. 2.

Oct. 9, "COCOS/ISLAND". (Cachets same as Fig. 2.), Fig. 3.

Oct. 11, PERLOS/ISLANDS. Circular magenta "PRESIDENTIAL CRUISE 1935" and silver Crosby cachet, Fig. 4.

Oct. 16, "BALBOA/CANAL ZONE", (reported, not seen).

Oct. 16, P.M. "TRANSITING/CANAL", with magenta circular "PRESIDENTIAL CRUISE 1935", and Roessler cachet with paste-on flag in color, Fig. 5.

Oct. 16 P.M., CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE", (with cachets same as Figs. 2, 3 & 5) Fig. 6.

In 1938 FDR took a tour of the West Indies and Alaskan ports on the USS

Houston. A naval cover is shown with an Aug 4 postmark: "PANAMA/CANAL ZONE", and an undated magenta circular "PRESIDENTIAL CRUISE" cachet. There is an additional black rubber stamp cachet showing a profile of the ship with text: "Taking COMMANDER IN CHIEF, ADM. C. BLOCH, on a tour of the West Indies and Alaskan ports and establishments.", Fig. 7.

Additionally, covers exist from the 1940 FDR cruise on the USS *Tuscaloosa*. Two covers are shown. The first, Fig. 8, has 30¢ postage (double weight, 1 oz. airmail) is dated February 26 and has the ship's cancel and "PRESIDENT'S/CRUISE". Another, Fig. 9, has a typed cachet, the U.S. seal and C.Z. 50th anniversary stamps canceled at Balboa Heights February 27.

During the August 1938 cruise, on August 4 FDR had a visit from a group of men connected with the Canal from construction days, the "Old Timers". They presented the President with an album of contrasting photographs. Facing pages showed an old picture taken during construction and a contemporary picture of the same place. The same day FDR had a discussion with Canal Zone Post Office

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Fig. 1. *Houston*, July 19, 1934, BALBOA/CANAL ZONE.

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FDR and CZ

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Inspector Stacey Russell who boarded the Cruiser USS *Houston* near Cocos Is., delivering his mail. The President had an inspiration to link his interest in philately with the photo album. From this discussion came the proposal for issuance by the Canal Zone Postal Service of a set of stamps to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Canal (Scott #120-135, and C15-20).

The extent and range of FDR's interest as a collector can be seen in a memo by Mr. Russell summarizing their conversation:

"During my recent trip to Cocos Island for the purpose of handling the Executive pouches a request reached

me ... that the President desired a complete set of Canal Zone stamps (current) in corner blocks of four.

"Although arrangements had been made to deliver the stamps through Secretary Farley, the President summoned me for a conference regarding our stamp issues. He commented favorably relative to our permanent issues despite my apologies concerning our inability to supply a better selection of evenly centered stamps. He then questioned me regarding the facilities we offered for sale of stamps to vessels transiting the Canal and .. any attempt to cater to philatelists ... who would not have an opportunity to purchase stamps ashore.

"The President commented relative to the several special issues gotten out

.... by Panama and stated he would like to see a special series of Canal Zone stamps issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Canal. He elaborated .. by stating .. a one cent stamp showing Culebra Cut in the midst of construction activity, .. and as its counterpart a 2¢ stamp embracing a view taken from the same relative position at present.

"Another suggestion was the Gatun Locks .. In general ... a "before and after" series covering all strategic sections of the Canal construction ..."

A year later on August 15, 1939, the postage set was issued at all CZ post offices. (The air mails were issued a month later.) Executive Secretary McIlvaine

(Continued on page 39)



Fig. 2. Houston, October 3, 1935, CERROS/ISLANDS, Roessler Cachet.

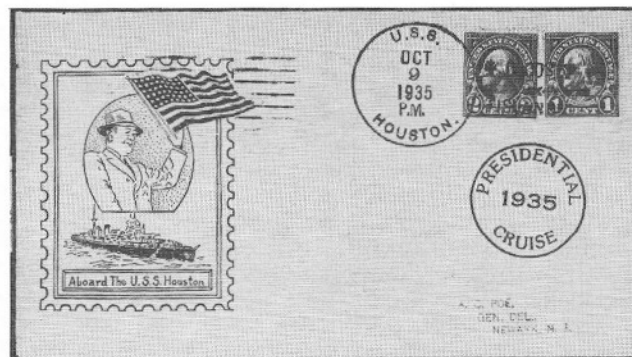


Fig. 3. Houston, October 9, 1935, COCOS/ISLAND.

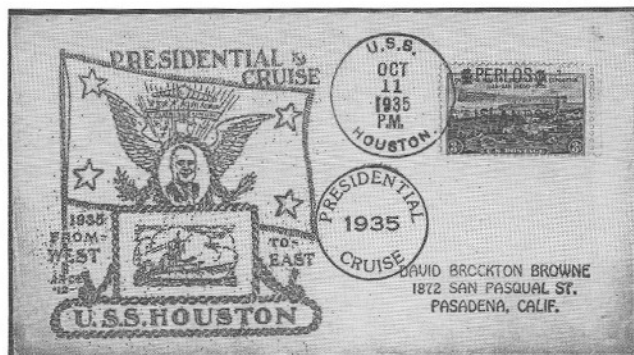


Fig. 4. Houston, October 11, 1935, PERLOS/ISLAND, Crosby Cachet.



Fig. 5. Houston, October 16, 1935, TRANSITING/CANAL.

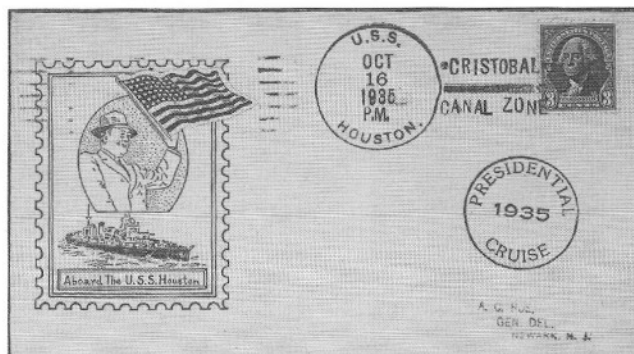


Fig. 6. Houston, October 16, 1935, CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE.

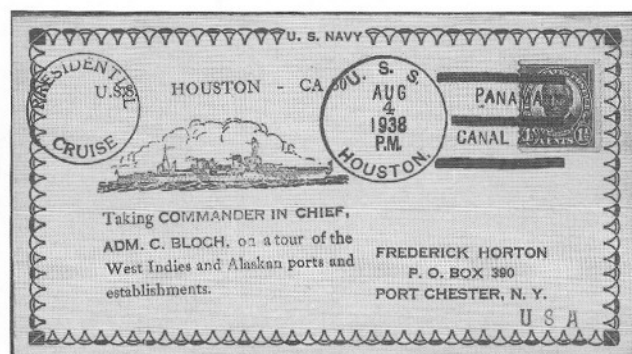


Fig. 7. Houston, August 4, 1938, PANAMA/CANAL ZONE.

FDR and CZ

(Continued from page 38)

sent copies of the stamps to President Roosevelt along with the following letter:

"It is a pleasure to forward herewith a set in plate blocks .. of the sixteen .. stamps showing the "before and after" scenes of the construction work and the town of Balboa, following your suggestion ... during your visit to the Isthmus in August last year.

"..the scenes depict commercial ships in all cases except one, the seven cent stamp, bearing the caption "Bas Obispo - After" ... show(s) .. the USS *Houston* entering the north end of the Gaillard Cut .. this being a reproduction of ... official photo .. two copies ... enclosed. .. recall that you were on board the *Houston* on your voyage through the Canal, and photo was selected as a compliment to you as the author of the idea of the "before and after" scenes. [See banner, page 37.]

"I am pleased to forward two .. photos made by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing .. of the model from which the seven cent stamp was made. These stamps and enclosures likewise are presented to you by the group of civilian construction workers to whom you gave an audience aboard the *Houston* when you last visited the Canal Zone."

FDR did not limit his philatelic interest in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the completion of the Panama Canal to only the Canal Zone issues. Back in the states he requested that the United States also issue a stamp. Thus the 3¢ red violet Scott 856 was born! This stamp has as a central design a steamship passing through Gaillard Cut, and on the left a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt and on the right a portrait of George Goethals.

It was desired to release this United States stamp on August 15, 1939 in the Canal Zone. But this would make it

necessary for any covers to pay an additional 3¢ to cover the Canal Zone postage rate. The U.S. Post Office Department decided that the U.S. collector would prefer that the cover contain only the 3¢ U.S. stamp. The President suggested to have a U.S. naval vessel be used as a temporary post office to service first day covers at the Canal Zone.

On August 15, 1939 the USS *Charleston*, anchored in the Canal near Balboa, took possession of and canceled first day covers of the new U.S. "Panama Canal" stamps on its deck with a "USS Charleston-Canal Zone" cancel.

The conclusion of this story on "FDR and Canal Zone Philately" and the importance of what these proceedings meant to FDR can be seen in the FDR stamp collection. When the collection was auctioned by his estate, there were eight Canal Zone lots.

Lot 472 was described as: 1928-32 1¢ - 50¢; 1937 14¢; Air Post 1931-41 5¢ to 1\$ complete. .. in blks of 4 with P.#. This was the material given to the President on his 1938 visit!

Lots 473, 475, and 476 contained: 1939 Panama Canal Comm. / Air Mail Post 1¢ to 50¢/5¢ to 1\$ in blks of with P.# and two 10"x7" photos of the U.S. *Houston* in Gaillard Cut, and two 5 6/8" x 3 6/8" photos of the 7¢ stamp. .. The material given to the President in 1939 by the "Old Timers"!

It would be appreciated if someone who has access to the deck logs of the *Houston* and the *Tuscaloosa* could confirm the dates that FDR was aboard. It is quite likely that covers exist with additional dates. A note to the author or editor would be helpful.

References:

B. C. Baur: *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Stamps of the United States 1933-45*, Linns 1993

H.R. Harmer, Inc. *Auction Catalog Sales: 16198/200*. General Collection of Postage Stamps .. **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**. February 4 and 5, 1946 New York

(Continued on page 47)

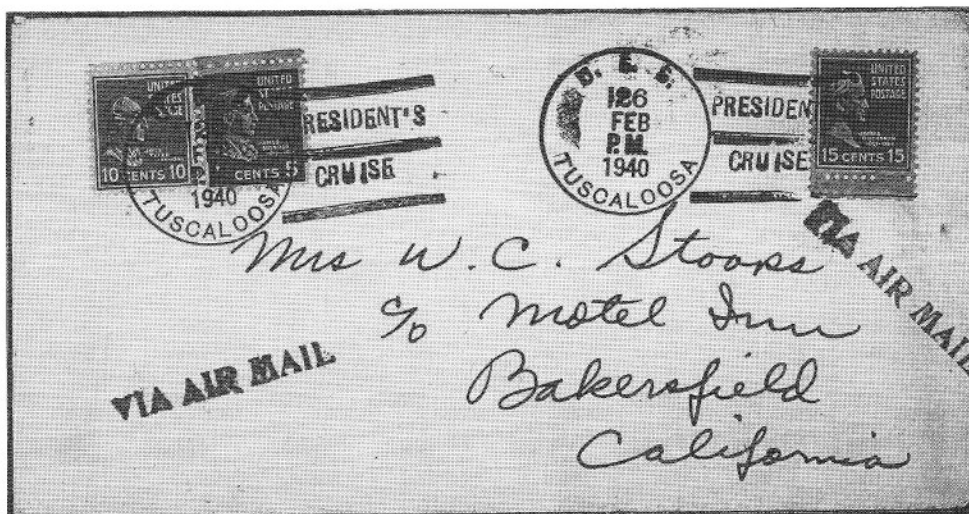


Fig. 8. Tuscaloosa, February 26, 1940, PRESIDENT'S/CRUISE.

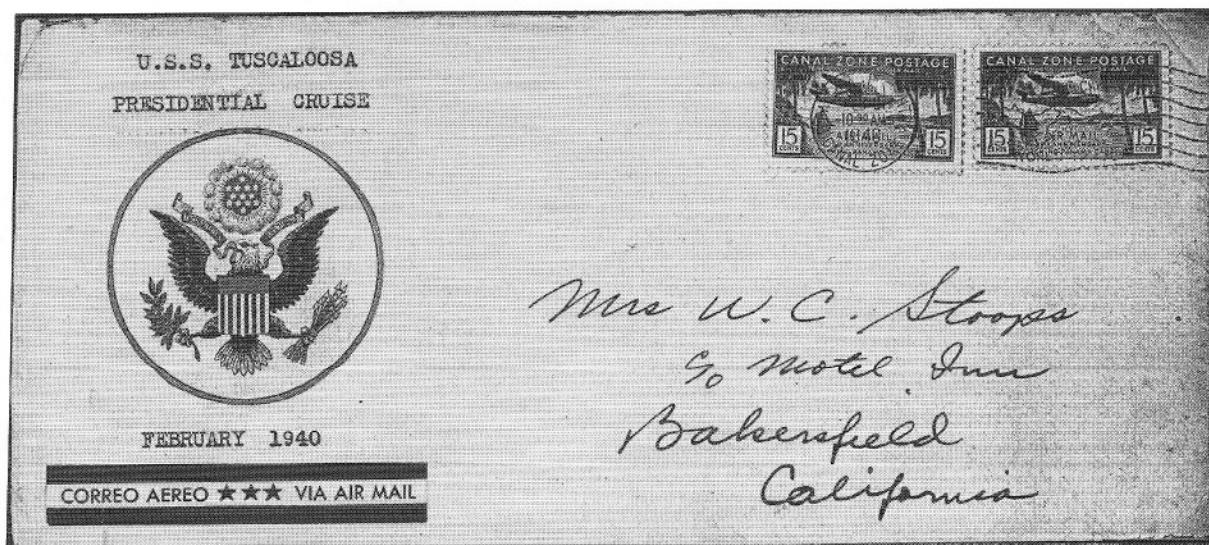


Fig. 9. Balboa Heights, Canal Zone, February 27, 1940.

The Canal Zone Philatelist

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|--------------------------|---------|
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| One column, five inches | 20.00 |
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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone or FAX the Editor: (310) 472-0282. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

WWII APO in South America

Linn's Stamp News, November 4, 1996, pages 52-53, has an interesting article, "WWII Army post offices in South America", by Richard B. Graham. The article includes a regional map showing the location of a number of the military bases providing protection for the Panama Canal. Covers from Peru to Venezuela are shown with good background and detail.

Secretary's Report

John C. Smith
408 Redwood Lane
Schaumburg, IL 60192

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As of November 12, 1996, our membership stands at 822 members.

The 1997 dues notices have been mailed and you should have received your dues envelopes before you read this. So please help your secretary by mailing your dues as early as possible, along with any address change. It would be very helpful if you would put your CZSG number on our return envelope. It is what I use to find your file in the computer. Your number is always on the address label to the right of your name. You may want to consider paying your dues one or more years in advance to save some time and

President's Report

(Continued from page 37)

(covers, postal stationery and miscellaneous) under his able guidance and to learn how the operation is put together. I expect I am going to have a lot of fun and a lot of work.

Many members will have seen the catalog of the great James Helme Collection sold by Shreves in mid-November and may even have acquired material from it. This collection contained some impressive material put together by one of the great students of Canal Zone and Panama philately.

I hope that many members are already making tangible plans to visit PACIFIC 97 in San Francisco. It is reasonable to expect that our CZSG meeting on Saturday, May 31 at 2:00 p.m. will be among the largest gathering of CZ specialists ever. It should be a great opportunity to renew friendships and make new contacts.

I want to encourage members to plan on bringing show-and-tell, discussion items, and material for trade to our Society Table. Our general meeting will cover Study Group activities, works-in-progress, and several special presentations. This will be a good situation to seek information and feedback on your projects and interests from a wide range of other CZ collectors.

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UX2, S9a, Dropped "O"

A copy of S9a, Type 7, with a dropped "O" is illustrated. It is infrequently seen and has not previously been shown. Irwin Gibbs has confirmed the identification. The figure is enlarged 400%; the scale is in millimeters.

Norm Magnuson



Winners

CAPEX 96, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, June 1996. International Vermeil to Raymond Ireson for "The Panama Canal Story".

SESCAL 96, Stamp Exhibitions of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, October 1996. Vermeil to Allan M. Harris for "Canal Zone and Related Aerophilately 1918-1938".

SUNPEX 96, Sunnyvale Stamp Club, Sunnyvale, CA, November 1996. Gold to Allan M. Harris for "Canal Zone and Related Aerophilately 1918-1938".

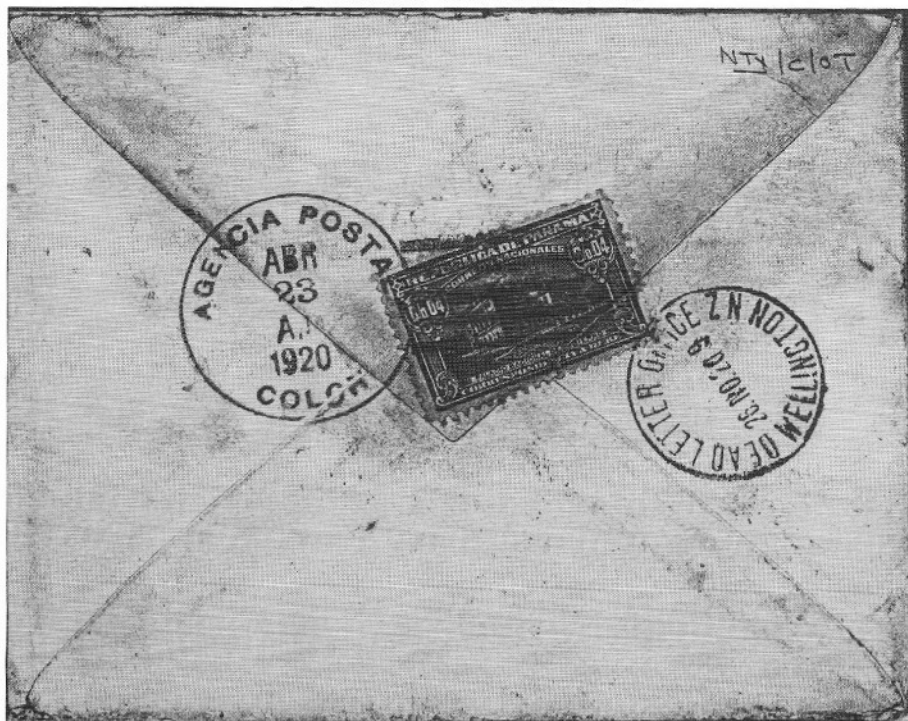
CZ J10-J11, Panama J3

A most unusual postage due cover has been submitted by Tom Brougham. On the face it appears quite simple with an underpaid British origin, March 30, 1920. The 1d deficiency is doubled to 2d to pay. In 1920 the British pound was within a cent or so of \$4.80. The 2d would have amounted to 4¢. This was duly collected in Colon April 23, 1920 with a copy of the 4c Panama J3. Unable to locate the addressee the cover was moved about 4

blocks up the street to the Cristobal Post Office, August 10, 1920 where it accrued charges of 6¢! Since first class postage between Panama and the Canal Zone was only 2c at the time it is a little difficult to rationalize a 6¢ charge. It was apparently forwarded again to the Dead Letter Office in Wellington, New Zealand, November 26, 1920. Since the cover never was delivered how is this 10¢ worth of due stamps accounted for?



CZ J10-J11 and Panama J3.



ABNCo Specimens of the Type IV Overprints

by David J. Leeds, James W. Crumpacker, and David T. Zemer

This installment of the series of articles on the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) Canal Zone archive specimens addresses the Type IV overprint of the portrait series, regular issues which became Scott Nos. 52-54. See Figs. 1-5. Previous articles on ABNCo specimens have appeared as noted in the sidebar box.

It is suggested that the articles be reviewed as background for a better understanding of these later issues.



Fig. 1. 1c CZSG 52.SA, F5448.

The F numbers (job order numbers) indicate that the new printings of the common denominations, 1c, 2c, and 5c, were individually ordered by the Republic of Panama. Initially the same F number included several denominations or were at least sequential with related issues. The stamps delivered with Type IV overprinting seem to have been ordered as needed. Also, ABNCo appears to have treated each order as a single event, without indefinitely preserving the overprint plate. No explanation exists for the periodic changes in font. We do not know why the type font of Type I of the Portrait Series was changed from a double serif C in CANAL to the single serif C used

in Type II printings. The type font of Type IV of this present article is completely different from the preceding fonts, as is the later Type V.

Marginal markings indicate that additional plates were engraved over the years. This can be seen when a reversed number or a number letter sequence follows the F numbers printed in the selvage.



Fig. 2. 1c CZSG 52.SB, F5968.

Note that the Type II plate, engraved 3843 (2), was also used for Type IV overprints. In discussing these numbers it is important to distinguish between the F numbers of the two separate dies of the frame and portrait, identifiable by their color. A more detailed future discussion is required to explain the sequence of the F numbers.

As noted in Table I (and in the original checklist, CZP 117:38) three sheets of 100 of each printing were preserved in the archives.

The two Type IV 1c printings, F5448 and 5968, differ only slightly in the dimensions of the SPECIMEN overprint. F5448 overprint is 14.2mm by 2.2mm;

ABNCo Specimen Articles:
General article.....CZP 115:9-13
Checklist.....CZP 117:37-40
Type I Portraits,
Scott 31-35CZP 119:13-17
Type II,
Inv.CANALCZP 120:25-26
Pictorials, Scott 42-45,
49-51,58-59CZP 116:26-29



Fig. 3. 2c CZSG 53.SA, F5656, Pos. 23, 8.8mm.

(Continued on page 43)

Table I: Portraits — Type IV

| P'psd- No. | Basic No. | Denom | Red F# | Engraved F# | Qty | mm | Spec Ovpt | Arch.Date |
|---------------|--------------|-------|-----------|----------------|-----|------|-----------|--------------|
| 52.SA | 52 | 1c | 5448 | 3843 (2) | 300 | 14.2 | Red | Nov 17, 1917 |
| 52.SB | 52 | 1c | 5968 | 5634 (2A,3A) | 300 | 14.8 | Red | May 1, 1919 |
| 53.SA | 53 | 2c | 5656 | 4068 (3) | 300 | 14.2 | Blue | June 8, 1918 |
| 53.SB | 53 | 2c | 5967 | 4068 (3) | 300 | 14.2 | Blue | May 1, 1919 |
| 54.S | 54 | 5c | 6233 | 4736 (4) | 300 | 13.8 | Red | Jan 3, 1920 |

Note: 2c stamps consist of left and right panes of 100 on a sheet of 200.

Booklet panes will be discussed in a future article.



Fig. 4. 2c CZSG 53.SB, F5967.

ABNCo Type IV

(Continued from page 42)

F5968 is 13.8mm by 2.4mm. All of the Type IV regular issue adhesives have red specimen overprints except for the 2c which are blue.

There are no major distinguishing characteristics of the two 2c Type IV printings except for the pencil notation of the red F number on the back of every stamp, added in the 1990's for identification purposes. All of the SPECIMEN markings have the same dimensions as the Type IV 1c F5448 although they were ordered at different times.

The Type IV 5c had but one printing, with a specimen overprint similar to the second 1c, 13.8mm by 2.4mm.

No horizontal shifts have been seen, so that there are no varieties as C over Z, or Lover E. Full analysis of varieties such as broken letters remains to be undertaken; existence of a broken L of the 5c yielding CANAI is confirmed on specimen sheets as position 58. However, this same broken letter which exists per CZS Checklist for positions 59 and 60 is not present for those positions on any of the three 5c specimen sheets. (See Table II.)

The broken E in ZONE on the 1c reported in *Canal Zone Stamps* was not found in the archive sheets.

Nearly all spacings between CANAL and ZONE are quite uniform, varying from a standard 9.0mm to 9.25mm. The following spacing varieties have been noted, which should also appear in the over-the-counter issued stamps.

Handstamped dates on the archive sheets are thought to represent the date the sheets went into the ABNCo archive and are noted on the top selvage. These dates can be added to the Table of Type IV data given in the Checklist, and presented here.

Table II:
CANAL/ZONE Spacing Varieties

| | | 8.8mm Pos.# | 9.8mm Pos.# |
|-------|----|----------------|----------------|
| F5448 | 1c | 8 and 23 | — |
| F5656 | 2c | 8 and 23 | 94 |
| F5967 | 2c | 8, 11, and 23 | 94 |
| F5968 | 1c | 11 and 23 | 94 |
| F6233 | 5c | 11 and 23 | 94 |



Fig. 5. 5c CZSG 54.S, F6233, Pos. 23, 8.8mm.

❁ *Happy Holidays!* ❁

Scott No. 39a

Letter from H. F. Colman, Washington, DC, dated September 25, 1915. To Mr. H. M. Justi, Philadelphia:

"I am enclosing herewith a block of 80, of the 2¢ Canal Zone, printed by the American Bank Note Co., and the lefthand pane of the sheet is without surcharge. I just bought same today, from Mr. Clapp of this city. The sheet was sent to him entire, and it is supposed to be absolutely unique. He only collects in blocks of 4, but he took the upper 20 stamps, as you will observe, the right hand margin of the sheet is surcharged, and he kept it on this account, so as to show how the error occurred.

"I tried to get the entire sheet for you, but he would not let me have it. What he wanted was a block for his own collection. I think beyond doubt, this is the only sheet known, and it is the same thing practically, as my #58a [34a], of the 8¢ value, except that was un-surcharged at the top. If you care for the sheet as it is, you can have it for \$600. If you only want a horizontal block of 20, which would include 2 of the stamps, without surcharge, you can have same for \$150. This would include the surcharge on the right margin, "Canal [Zone]". You can take either the horizontal block of 20, at top of the sheet or at the bottom, whichever you prefer, and return the balance if you do not desire a block of 80.

"If it is convenient, I will appreciate it very much if you will send me a little something on account, as I have been buying right heavily lately, and I will have some obligations to meet the first of the month. I find that my bank account is now badly depleted.

"You will observe that this sheet is in very fine condition, and it certainly is a very rare item. I trust you will be able to use the enclosed.

"Very truly yours,
(signed) H. F. Colman."

[Editor's Note:]

Scott No. 39a, 2c Type II, exists as a horizontal pair, one without "CANAL ZONE". There are both right marginal pairs and left marginal pairs. The Shreves Philatelic Galleries sale of November 15-16, 1996 offered examples of both varieties from the James Helme collection. Previously, two examples of the right hand pairs had been offered in the Ivy, Shreve & Mader sale of the Gilbert N. Plass collection in July 1993. Helme also offered the right hand error (Lot #1144) in a bottom corner block of 8 (two pairs, one without overprint). Two sheets (20 pairs) existed of the right hand error.

The left hand error is quite another story. But one sheet existed (10 pairs), eight pairs of which have remained intact since 1915. The block of 80 was offered in the Helme sale as Lot #1145. The letter, referred to in the catalogue description of the lot, is reproduced here.

Scott listings do not distinguish between left or right of this or similar varieties. This is unfortunate since there are important distinctions between the two. One could possibly have had 20 examples on the market, the other no more than three. Either has the same catalogue value of \$1500 since 30 pairs - as described - existed.

Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

Alae Supra Canalem, Wings Over the Canal. The Sixth Air Force and the Antilles Air Command by Dan Hagedorn (Turner Publishing Company, P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101, (800) 788-3350; 1995) (ISBN 1-56311-153-5), 208 pages in a large hardbound format, \$39.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

Clearly this book was a labor of love for the author. It tells the story in text and many photographs of the air defenses of the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. You cannot go wrong adding *Alae Supra Canalem* to your personal library.

The detail is impressive, making the book of timeless value. No fact is unimportant, beginning with the first flights over the Canal which revealed the Canal's vulnerability, through the between-the-world-wars era, to the very hot war in the Caribbean early in World War II, through the end of that war. Among the appendices are "Sixth Air Force Order of Battle by Station", "USAAF Units assigned to Antilles Command as of June 1943", "Known Casualties Due to Aircraft Losses", and "APO's airfields, and Code Names".

That last appendix includes airfields not assigned APOs and is of value to cover and postmark collectors.

There is history here that should be more well-known by all of us. For example, the war in the Caribbean from Spring of 1942 through the Spring of 1943 when radar became available for U.S. airplanes was pressed very hard by German and Italian submarines. Then, there are the little facts, such as the origin of the name France Field.

Even though this book will not disappoint the reader who wants the last drop of information, the book is nearly a coffee-table picture book with its numerous well-captioned photos.

Although the equipment used during this period is fully described, the people are the real story. The day to day courage and personalities are clearly portrayed. Therein lies the true love of the labor of writing the book.

Panama Canal Abroad: Antigua & Barbuda

A 1991 issue of Antigua and Barbuda, Scott No. 1399, commemorates the cog-wheel railways of the world. The EC\$6.00 top value issued as a single stamp in a small miniature sheet (Scott No. 640) pictures one of the cog-wheel locomotive "mules" used in guiding ships through the Panama Canal locks.

An inscription on the stamp reads "Electric Cog Donkey Engines Pull Ships from Lock to Lock, Panama Canal". The area around the stamp shows a championship baseball game of the Isthmian League at Ancon Baseball Park, 1912. Hotel Tivoli and Ancon (Gorgas) Hospital appear in the background. Thanks are due Chris DeVoe of C & H Stamps, Box 855, Syracuse, NY 13214.



Panama Canal "Mule".

Possible 20c Semi-Official Air Mail

Internal air mail services operating in Colombia (until 1932) required payment of the special air mail service (in addition to regular postage) in the form of their own Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos (SCADTA) stamps. The stamps were available at SCADTA offices in Colombia and abroad, and at Colombian Consular offices. They were usually overprinted with the initials of the foreign country in which they were sold, as "P" for Panama, "EU" for Estados

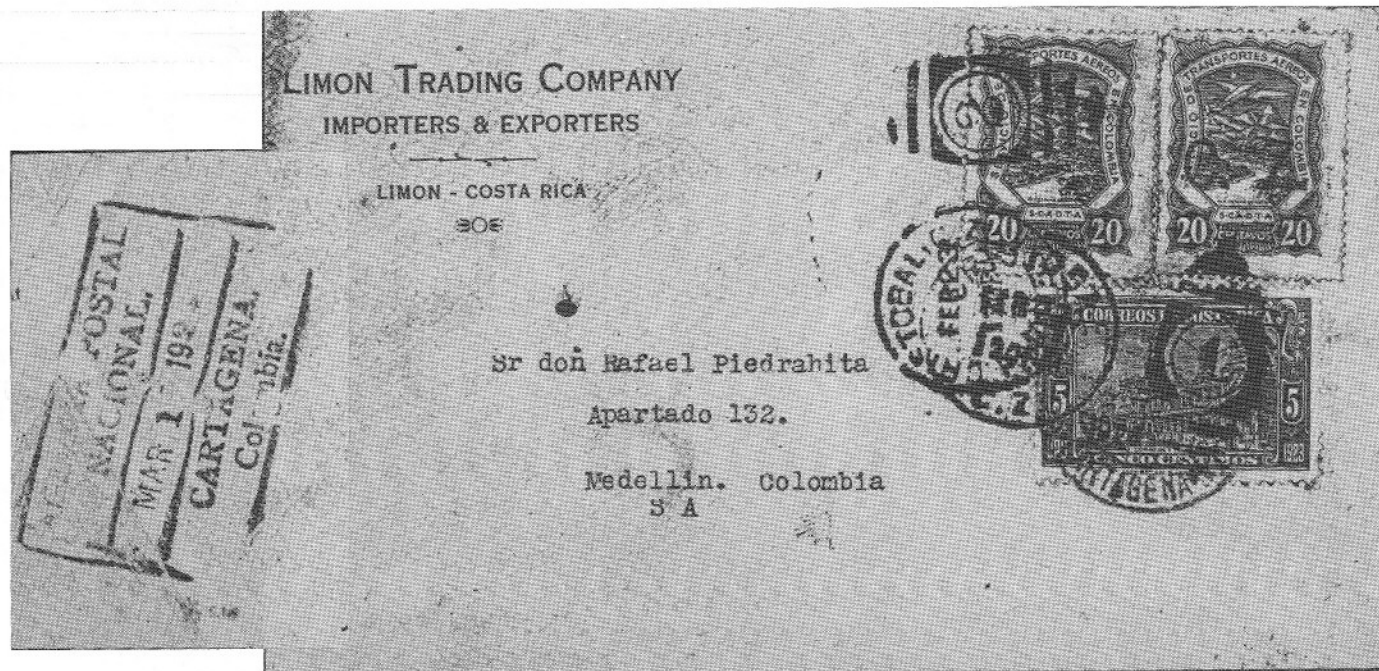
Unidos, and so on. In 1969 a new variety was reported (CZP 10:1-2, and 15:17-19) of a 30c SCADTA typeset "P" with an additional handstamped "C.Z." Only four used copies have been reported, Sanabria CZ1. See also CZS page 230 for additional discussion. Fakes are known.

Michael Rogers, Inc. of Winter Park, Florida offered a previously unknown SCADTA "C.Z." overprint of the 20 centavos on cover, in the November 16, 1996 Sale 45. The cover has a Limon, Costa Rica return address and is franked with a 5c Costa Rica Scott #120 plus two 20c SCADTA stamps (Colombia Scott C41), one of which has a 6mm "C.Z." overprint. There are no Costa Rican postal mark-

ings. Instead there are two Cristobal, C.Z. markings, Paquebot and February 23, 1924 CDS. Cartegena, Colombia markings of March 1, are on both the face and backs. The cover was carried by ship from Costa Rica to Cartegena via the Canal Zone. It probably received SCADTA air service from Cartagena to Medellin, Colombia.

Only one of the two 20c SCADTA stamps is overprinted "C.Z.", making this an unusual variety of a previously unknown stamp. We look forward to further information on this unusual discovery and hope that the new owner submits it for expertization.

David J. Leeds



Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

Panama by Eric Zencey (New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1995) (ISBN 0-374-22943-0), 375 pages, \$24, and on four audiocassettes, abridged by Anne Davis and read by Boyd Gaines (New York: Simon and Schuster Audioworks, 1995) (ISBN 0-671-54922-7), about 4 1/2 hours, \$23.

This is a historical novel that is more like a thriller or detective story, but the main character is not really a detective. The story takes place mostly in 1892 Paris with a backdrop of the Panama scandal. Many of the important personages such as John Hay and Ferdinand and Charles de Lesseps move in and out of the action. The main character is a descendant of the two U.S. Presidents Adams.

To be candid, this reviewer does not usually like historical novels, especially

when he knows something about the subject matter. There is always that desire to check the veracity of the events, which is not necessary in this medium. Also, you can often see in your mind's eye a familiar photograph that you think the author is describing. These types of novels can be an easy way to create a setting rather than inventing one. Such novels are a type of "costume" story. In this case, too many events that are later shown by history to be important impinge on Adams' adventure in this book.

Besides the historical novel problems, the book has another bad feature. It is full of "gratuitous description." Right in the middle of the action, there are accounts of Adams' supposed feelings or a verbal sketch of a building accompanied by some philosophizing. The book reads like the first novel that it is. Everything seems strained to make period references and to include those unnecessary, and in some cases, silly descriptions.

If a novel is to be set in another time, one would think that contemporaneous slang or idioms of the era would appear. I found none. The reader might feel like a time traveler without any language problem at all.

Thankfully, Anne Davis edited out much of the extra description. So, in that way the tapes are better than the book. The reading by Boyd Gaines is good. His accents and inflections are consistent throughout the reading. His voice for John Hay sounds so much like Sean Connery that some listeners may be distracted. Boyd Gaines has read on tape some of Lawrence Sanders' detective stories in his McNally series.

So, unless you particularly like historical novels and a writing style that uses a liberal sprinkling of those great gems of description and wisdom, give this book a miss.

Helme Auction Results

by Jim Crumpacker

The highlight of the Fall auction season was the sale November 16 by Shreves Philatelic Galleries of 225 Canal Zone lots from the James B. Helme, M.D. collection. Basically limited to stamps of Scott #21-69 plus booklet panes from the early period through #117b and a few postage dues from the same era, the sale was fleshed out by some outstanding 1906-1920 covers.

The auction catalog utilized expansive and verbose writeups of the lots, especially concerning gum condition, a practice prevalent in recent years for Canal Zone offerings of major scope. The report consolidates the many descriptions of the gum condition to conform to the simpler guise which normally appears in the quarterly "Auctions" column in CZP. All lots listed below were personally examined by me just prior to the auction. Those of you with a copy of the sale catalog will notice these descriptive listings might vary in a few other respects.

The sale price is listed first followed by the catalog value, in parenthesis, from the 1996 *Scott's Specialized*; the 10% commission is included.

- 21, block of three on cover, Pedro Miguel 10/29/06 to US, FDC for this, with a VG #19, cover wrinkles and a fold, o/w F-VF \$1210 (\$n/a)
- 22c, vertical pair imperforate between, two pairs in a strip of five stamps, lightly discolored and splotchy OG, H, VF \$2640 (\$3500)
- 22g, inverted center and overprint reading up, TG, HR and interleaf adherence, F-VF \$2530 (\$3250)
- 22g, inverted center and overprint reading up, pair on cover 3/15/09, RPO cancel, to US, left stamp with a minor bend, modest repairs to back of cover, o/w F+-VF and believed to be the only on-cover example \$9350 (\$n/a)
- 23e, double overprint, one diagonal, in pair with normal, discolored TG, VF margin copy \$1430 (\$1750)
- 23g, inverted center and overprint reading up on carmine lake, used, a three-sixteenth inch tear with some creasing, centered F \$2640 (\$5000)
- 23g, inverted center and overprint reading up on carmine lake, used on cover Crist. 4/20/08 to US, stamp VF, cover with light toning and a 1" piece of backflap having been reattached, believed to be the only on-cover example \$12100 (\$n/a)
- 27, irregular block of 14 copies on cover, Las Cascadas 5/11/09 to US, FDC, large backflap tear, stamps F-VF \$743 (\$n/a)

- 31a, inverted center and overprint reading down, used, small crease LR corner, o/w F-VF \$8800 (\$15000)
- 36, margin block of 40 stamps (4x10) with CANAL ZONE on margins of four stamps, CZSG 36.1, OG, NH, F-VF \$880 (\$n/a)
- 38a, vertical pair, one without overprint, dull OG, H, F margin copy \$1430 (\$1500)
- 38b, booklet pane of 6, imperf. margins, OG which is very lightly disturbed on three stamps only, NH, F+-XF \$605 (\$750)
- 39a, horizontal pair, one without overprint, eight copies in a block of 80 (10x8), CZSG 39a.II, left stamps w/o overprint, part of CANAL shows on all eight narrow selvages at right, 20% OG remaining, HR's, F-XF \$4950 (\$12680)
- 39e, inverted center with overprint reading down, the unique "BP waste" block of 16 (4x4) OG, interleaving adheres, clipped bottom and left, o/w F+-VF \$7425 (\$11200)
- 39f, booklet pane of 6, inverted center with overprint reading down, splotchy OG about 10% intact, three stamps trimmed at left, o/w VF with covers and interleaf \$4400 (\$6500)
- 40a, "wrong portrait", used, tiny perf tip creases, one nibbed perf. and a less than pinhead size inclusion, centered F \$5775 (\$8000)
- 46d, double overprint, one reads ZONE CANAL, TG, very minor interleaf adherence, F margin copy \$1320 (\$1750)
- 47, OG, H, XF \$3080 (\$3000)
- 52e, horizontal pair from booklet pane, left stamp without overprint, TG, HR's, F-VF \$3575 (\$1750)
- 53d, booklet pane of 6, left vertical row of three stamps without overprint, OG, HR, pinhead size inclusion one stamp, VG-VF believe unique \$8250 (\$5000)
- 60a, CANAL double, OG (about 1/2 disturbed), H, VF \$1760 (\$2750)
- 61f, complete booklet of two panes, stamps splotchy OG, NH, F+-VF, front cover minor crease and stain, \$3190 (\$4200)
- 67a, ZONE CANAL reading down, a LR corner margin block of 4 with "CANAL" printed twice on right margin, CZSG 67a.1, OG (gum skip on three), stamps NH, F \$1760 (\$3400)
- 71c, CANAL only, OG, NH, VF+ \$2750 (\$1750)
- 84d, complete booklet of 2 panes (both pos. J) OG, NH, F+-VF \$1100 (food fight between two floor bidders after the \$375 mark) (\$400)
- 97a, pair, one without overprint, this lot two pairs in UL corner margin block of 4, OG, tiny HR, F \$6875 (\$6000)

J5, three copies on cover from the Bahamas with a Bahamas 1 p stamp, CZ stamps tied by Balboa Heights cancel 10/21/15, cover torn back, CZ stamps VG-F \$385 (\$n/a)

J19a, ZONE ZONE, in a margin block of 12 with 11 normals, OG, error NH, F+ \$1540 (\$1670)

Further information:
Shreves Philatelic Galleries, Inc.
14131 Midway Road, Suite 1250
Dallas, Texas 75244
Please mention CZP.

CZSG Mail Sale

by Jim Crumpacker

This review reports on our annual CZSG Mail Sale, the 25th consecutive such offering. 764 lots were available this year.

As is usually the case, common material in uncommon condition sold very well. The many errors and non-Scott varieties also realized good prices while damaged or badly off-center stamps sold poorly or not at all.

There is never any buyer's commission in our CZSG Mail Sales. Each price realized below is shown first followed by the catalog value (from *Scott's Specialized 1996*) in parenthesis.

- 1, disturbed OG, F margin copy \$250 (\$550)
- 3a, CANAL ZONE inverted, disturbed OG, F+ \$500 (\$625)
- 7, block of 4, lightly disturbed OG, one stamp w/a paper bend, VF \$450 (\$825)
- 9b, ZONE antique, OG, NH, F+ \$80 (\$70)
- 10a, inverted overprint, OG, NH, VF \$210 (\$250)
- 14b, inverted overprint, slightly tropical OG, NH, barely F \$170 (\$425)
- 14d, CANAL antique, rose brown ovpt, sl. tropical OG, NH, just barely F \$1500 (\$2250)
- 22a, horiz. pair imperf. between, TG, HR, VF with a paper inclusion \$800 (\$1250)
- 23h, double overprint, one diagonal and one reading ZONE CANAL, plus 23d, double overprint, one diagonal, in a vertical pair, a pp and a mid perf on 23h, a pp on 23d, no gum, centered VF, \$2350 (\$4750)
- 33a, double overprint, disturbed OG, HR, just F \$250 (\$375)
- 39d, overprint reading down, sl. disturbed OG, NH, XF \$170 (\$175)
- 46, second pr., OG (disturbed by tissue and slightly yellowed), VF \$80 (\$250)
- 46b, double overprint, disturbed brownish OG, F+ margin copy \$210 (\$300)

(Continued on page 47)

CZSG Mail Sale

(Continued from page 46)

- 47, OG which is very slightly disturbed and has a few black specks, pn, just F \$1600 (\$3000)
- 50, OG, H, XF jumbo \$70 (\$55)
- 55a, overprint reading down, OG, NH, VF \$140 (\$250)
- 58, used, 10mm CANAL to ZONE spacing, HR, heavy cancel, VF \$250 (\$160)
- 59, OG, HR, XF \$160 (\$150)
- 71b, ZONE inverted, OG, NH, F \$160 (\$350)
- 95, OG, NH, VF \$100 (\$125)
- 97b, booklet pane of 6, OG with hint of disturbance, NH, F-VF \$275 (\$650)
- 117b, booklet pane of 6, pl. #132720, OG, NH, VG-F \$42 (\$55)
- 164x2, 164a, one each of the 3 vars. incl. tagged, OG, NH, F-VF \$5.50 (\$4.50)
- C25a, horiz. pair imperf. vertically, OG (gum bend as nearly always, this very light), NH, F margin copy \$650 (\$1000)
- CO9, postally used, pn, VF \$210 (\$250)
- CO14a, inverted overprint, CTO, OG, H, F+ with a pn \$1700 (\$2500)
- 27, used, with most of a "T" postage due mark, F-VF \$16 (\$n/a)
- J18a, ZONE ZONE, OG, error NH and F+, in a bl. of 9 with 8 normals \$900 (\$1314)
- J21a, POSTAGE DUE omitted, in pair with CZSG J21.1 (shifted letters and surcharge), OG, error NH, VF natural SE, part arrow, \$3200 (\$5005)
- 08, bl. of 4, OG, very lightly hinged and slightly toned, F-VF \$1300 (\$2700)
- 49-51, Specimens overprint set, OG, NH, F+ to VF with pn's as always \$150 (\$n/a)
- 60-66, Specimens overprint set, OG, NH, F+ to VF with pn's as always \$250 (\$n/a)
- 93, pl. bl. of 6, #17449-L, OG, NH, some floppy perfs, o/w F-VF \$170 (\$250)
- J17, pl. bl. of 6, #15511-L, TG, NH, F-VF \$450 (\$550)
- 123, perf. P, used, F+ \$34 (\$n/a)
- UC1, (UPSS A3), mint VF \$210 (\$135)
- UC2, (UPSS A4), mint VF \$140 (\$65)
- CZ-2 (failed 1920 flight which neared Jamaica), with two #16b, on cover, stamps and cover F-VF \$220 (\$150)
- FAM 8-25a, Cristobal 1/21/30 to San Salvador with C5a and a #90, stamps and cover F-VF \$55 (\$n/a)
- 2, F-VF, Matachin 7/13/04 on F-VF cover to US \$450 (\$240)
- 14 (with Type B "8"), 10, 12, 13, all F or better Cristobal 4/4/05 on F cover to US \$230 (\$n/a)
- 20, 23, both F, Ancon Sta. A 11/23/06 on F cover to US \$150 (\$n/a)

- 33/31, both F or better, used as postage dues on incoming cover from England to Empire, GB stamp, with "T" mark on a F cover \$375 (\$n/a)
- 46, first pr., F-VF, Balboa Hts. 9/19/20 on F ppc to US \$170 (\$160)
- CO14, F Cristobal 4/25/50 on wrinkly cover to US \$36 (\$50)
- Ocean to Ocean Submarine Mail, both 5/7/19 cancels on unaddressed cover, no stamps so apparently a sample, cut down 15mm at left, \$150 (\$n/a)

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

My sympathies to those of you who consigned Canal Zone material during the third quarter, July 1 through September 30, 1996. Your lots in many cases failed to meet their reserves in a period of meager offerings.

Shown below are some of the few interesting results from this dull period. The selling price is shown first followed by the catalogue value, in parenthesis, from the 1996 Scott's Specialized; any commission is included.

- 7, OG, H., F+ \$66 (\$175) Weiss
- 46b, CANAL ZONE double, TG, F margin copy \$116 (\$300) Kukstis
- 59, OG, H, one blunt perf. o/w VF \$68 (\$150) Kukstis
- 71b, ZONE inverted, OG, NH, F+ \$374 (\$350) Ivy & Mader
- 71e, complete booklet of 4 panes, OG, NH, F-VF with small rust stain from staples, \$297 (\$500) Stamp Center
- 84d, booklet pane of 6, OG, NH, VF \$111 (\$200) Apfelbaum
- 97, OG, NH, VF \$51 (\$42.50) Bel-Aire
- J14, used, VF, \$39 (\$50) Weiss
- J20, OG, NH, VF \$276 (\$150) Ivy & Mader
- CO8, used, CTO, OG, H, F \$48 (\$150) Kukstis
- UF1a (UPSS R4), used with two #39, Ancon 1918 to USA, some foxing, toning, and paper clip stain, o/w F \$1595 (\$2000) Stamp Center
- UX2 (UPSS S3), mint VF \$150 (\$190) Newman
- UX4 (UPSS S10), mint VF \$132 (\$160) Newman

The addresses of the auction houses which are mentioned are shown below. Cite CZP as your information should you choose to request a catalog.

Earl P.L. Apfelbaum, Inc., 2006 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19103

Bel-Aire Auction Gallery, 2375 N. Fairview Ave., Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55113

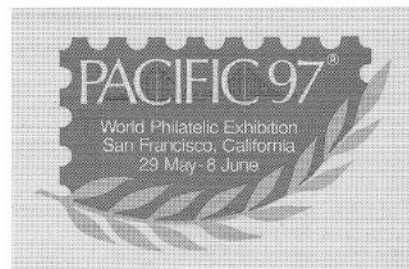
Ivy & Mader Auction Galleries, 32 East 57th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10022-2513

Kukstis Auctions, Inc., PO Box 130, Scituate, MA 02066

Newman & Co. Galleries, 1500 Harbor Blvd., Weehawken, NJ 07087

Stamp Center, 4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803

Weiss Philatelics, PO Box 5358, Bethlehem, PA 18015.



CZSG May 31, Sat 2:00-3:30pm

FDR and CZ

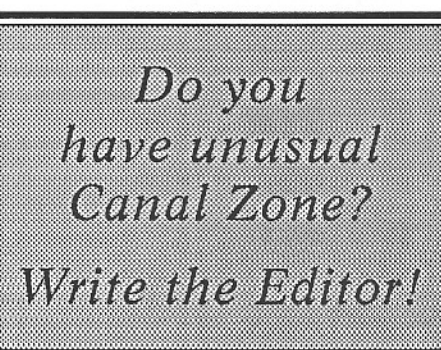
(Continued from page 39)

R. J. Karrer, Jr., "FDR on the Isthmus", *Isthmian Collectors Club Journal*, April 1989, pages 23-30.

Panama Canal Executive Bureau Files: 31-H-2, Vols. 10 and 11; PCC-28-1-62, part 5.

Scott Publishing Co., *Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps*.

G. B. Sloane, "Canal Zone Com. Set Coming", *Stamps*, Sept. 17, 1938; "Canal Zone Commemorative Issue", *Stamps*, Jan. 14, 1939.



UNUSUAL CANAL ZONE COVERS

#1 (2c Rose) horiz. strip of three (nos. 51-57) with "Ancon C.Z. - Jul. 9, 1904" c.d.s. to left of stamps, which are tied by violet machine cancel, "Cristobal" transit (same date) on front and "Colon" duplex backstamp (Jul. 11) on reverse. Stamps and cover are very fine, with '93 P.F. cert., '97 S.R. \$1,500 net \$1,350.00

#2 & #3 (5c blue and 10c yellow) f-vf copies tied "on nose" by "Empire C.Z." c.d.s.'s to v.f. cover, very scarce combination. '78 A.P.S. cert., ex-Tows coll., est. S.R. \$1,000.00+ net \$650.00

#2 (TWO) & #3 s.e. f-vf to ex. fine, tied to v.f. cover by "Culebra C.Z. Jul. 9, 1904" c.d.s., rare combination with '84 P.F. and A.P.S. certs. est. S.R. \$1,500.00+ net \$850.00

#18 (8c on 50c bistre brown) block of four (with top pair 15mm "PANAMA" l.r. stamp "dropped A var.") tied to v.f. registered cover by "Sta. A Ancon C.Z. REGISTERED Sep. 1, 1906" c.d.s. most attractive and rare. '95 P.S.E. cert., R.R. for single \$225.00 net \$1250.00

UF1 (10c on 5c black and red entire) with #40 (tiny tear) tied, exceptional condition and rare. '94 P.S.E. cert., '97 S.R. \$2,000 net \$1,850.00

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There are many Canal Zone Study Group members who help with the numerous tasks involved in running an organization of our size — some are elected to office, others are appointed. None receive remuneration for what they do. Instead of money giving the satisfaction, they receive pleasure from helping advance the aims of our group.

Following is a list of those elected or appointed to the various positions.

ELECTED:

President, Tom Brougham
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Vice President, Jim Crumpacker
PO Box 1836, Las Vegas, NV 89125

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West Coast: Richard H. Salz

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Richard F. Murphy
501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650

There are many names that do not appear in this listing. They too are thanked for their many hours of work in helping to assemble and run the various Mail Sales, for assisting at booths or tables at various stamp shows around the country, and for giving time to the nominating committee.

R. H. Salz